

Catley



Camp Howard
Mount Idaho T. P.
May 14th 1879.

Prof Asa Gray,
Harvard,
Dear Sir

I am indebted to you
for a kind letter and the thoughtful
attention of some interesting printed
tracts. You are pleased to say that
I "guess" like a Yautu, which pleased
me both by its wit and because I was
correct in my guess. But I can hardly
claim it & have been a guess since
I exhausted the limited means at my
command before guessing. I do not
know whether I understand the request
you make but I take it you ask me to
make specimens of *Synthyris reniformis* for
the Herbarium, the request comes almost

too late for the plant is now nearly out of flower, but I have found a few late blooms though not the largest size of any attained, and I have tried to press them but I am not at all satisfied with the result, they are not well done, but I send them hoping they will not prove wholly valueless -

The package contains 4 flower stems, 2 stems with the seed capsules partly developed, 1 last year's stem which shows the seed pods plainly, 2 new leaves and 2 year old leaves, the leaves as you know are radical, as I wrote before the last year leaves do not die until long after the plant has blossomed, but they become partially liver colored and finally die just as the seed is maturing of the next year, by this time the new leaves are well developed, The package also contains two other plants which I guess to be two species of Synthyris, one is apetalous and the other had a dark purple corolla, but the one in which the corolla was wanting had a calyx purple inside but green without, both of these species were very hairy the apetalous one the more so while S. periformis is a smooth glossy plant throughout

I enclose the flower and leaf of a pretty orchid which grows in the dark woods here, It has but one leaf (radical) the root is a bulb and invariably is attached to last year's bulb (withered); the sack of the flower has two little spurs which do not show in this poorly dried specimen, What is it? If desirable I could send you some bulbs of this orchid, they grow in loose leaf mould on the hills among the evergreens, If I know what would be considered as additions to your specimens or to the gardens of the University it is possible I might partly repay the pleasure and profit I am receiving from this correspondence

I am booked for a long trip into the wildest and least known part of the territory. I start with 50 mounted men about the middle of June for the south fork of the Salmon river and will be gone perhaps a month or two, It will be a very pleasant journey, the streams of these mountains are full of trout and I know more about trout catching than I do of botany, How I wish you could accompany me on this ramble in the mountains, I am, Sir,

With much respect, & many thanks,
Your Oth Servant,

H. C. C. C.